

mind that by banning ROTC units from campuses these protestors are themselves practicing a form of discrimination. This is a tactic that happens too often. Principles of equality, free speech, and freedom of expression seem to apply only to colleges and universities when they are ideologically expedient.

ROTC units are banned currently from several universities including Brown, Harvard, Stanford, and Yale. Students who attend these universities and wish to participate in ROTC programs must travel, often at their own expense, to neighboring campuses. ROTC cadets frequently are the subjects of ridicule on their own campuses. Despite the recent setbacks at UCSB, headway is being made in the struggle to ensure the rights of students are protected.

Columbia University in New York City banned ROTC in 1969 in an effort to appease liberals. The end of the Vietnam War brought an end to the protesting, however the ban remains in place. That ban is now coming under intense fire thanks to efforts by Advocates for Columbia ROTC, an on-campus student group. Sponsored by the powerful Students United for America, another student organization, the Advocates for Columbia ROTC is making a significant push to bring back ROTC. In a student referendum two years ago, 65% wanted their rights to participate in ROTC restored. In the fall of 2004, students authored a proposal to reinstitute ROTC at Columbia and presented it to the university's senate. The senate then created an "ROTC Task Force" made up of faculty and students to discuss the proposal. On February 15 the task force held a "town hall" meeting to gather information for a report to be presented to the university's trustees who will make the final decision concerning ROTC's fate at Columbia. After six months of deliberation, the task force split 5-5 on whether or not to restore ROTC to Columbia immediately.

Columbia's student-led movement may restore student rights to participate in ROTC. Articles, editorials, and letters voicing support for ROTC's return fill the student newspaper. A Columbia professor who opposed students' rights to participate in ROTC in 1969 is now calling for Columbia to cooperate with military recruiting efforts.

The potential reform at Columbia is a threat to leftists at other Ivy League schools that bar students from participating in ROTC and meeting with military recruiters on campus.

Students at Yale took notice and started their own "Bring Back ROTC" campaign. Yale students hope to garner two thousand signatures on a petition that would encourage increased discussions between the administration and those who want to see ROTC return.

Some student groups are going on the offensive to ensure their rights to participate in ROTC are protected. For example, students at Cornell are circulating a petition applauding the administration's support for ROTC, saying that a ban "would be an embarrassment to Cornell and a detriment to our armed forces." In the midst of a heated debate about military recruiters, students at Princeton formed a coalition to voice support for the ROTC program and its cadets.

These developments are encouraging. The students at Columbia and Yale are discovering that they have voices, and if they organize themselves and show strong support, the administration might finally listen.

But what is happening at UCSB is a step backward and demonstrates what may be a growing undercurrent of anti-militarism by faculties. How can we continue to subvert the efforts of those who literally live and die to preserve our freedoms, liberties, and our

very way of life? The men and women who participate in ROTC programs are critical leaders in that war. One ROTC commander described ROTC units as "islands of conservative values in a sea of liberal secondary education. We are training tomorrow's leaders today." Such values and training should be accessible to students no matter what school they choose to attend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to vote on the following suspension bills on July 11, 2005, due to family obligations: H. Con. Res. 168 and H. Res. 333.

I respectfully request that the RECORD reflect that I would have voted "aye" on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 168 and "aye" on agreeing to H. Res. 333.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 11, 2005, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 363 and 364. The votes I missed included a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 168, condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights, and a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 333, Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 363 and 364.

COMMENDING THE STATE OF KUWAIT FOR GRANTING WOMEN CERTAIN IMPORTANT POLITICAL RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in commending the State of Kuwait for recently granting women important political rights, among them the right of suffrage. Under this new law, passed by the Kuwaiti Parliament on May 17, 2005, Kuwaiti women not only have the right to vote in municipal elections scheduled for later this year and future elections, but they also are now permitted to run for public office.

A few years ago, I had the honor of traveling to Qatar to meet with men and women there. During that journey, it became crystal clear to me that women's suffrage is a uni-

versal human right; one that must be fought for by those of us fortunate enough to possess it. The women of Qatar won the right of suffrage in 1999, and since then have become more involved in their government as their voice is heard for the first time.

Additionally, just last month, I had the pleasure of meeting with a delegation of Kuwaiti women involved in various aspects of Kuwaiti life. I met with Mrs. Lulwa Al-Mullah, Secretary General of Women Social and Cultural Society; Ms. Amal Al-Khaled, Marketing and Public Affairs Director of Kuwait News Agency; Dr. Nada Suliman Al-Mutawa, professor at Arab Open University; Dr. Nibal K. Bourisly, Assistant Professor of Mass Communications at Kuwait University; and Mrs. Aroob Youseff Al-Refa'e, Director of Cultural and Scientific Resources at the National Council for Culture, Art, and Literature. These progressive female leaders work in the areas of university education; human rights, business, public affairs, and communications. They have been active in their society for some time, and now with the right to vote, their contributions will know no bounds.

I join my colleagues in saluting the granting of suffrage to the women of Kuwait. It is imperative that we Members of Congress, as representatives of the most free nation in the world, work to advocate the protection of this right of Kuwaiti women, and I stand by my colleagues in this endeavor.

STATEMENT DEFENDING THE HONOR OF OUR TROOPS

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the protection we have enjoyed here at home since we took the fight to the enemy has been purchased with the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. The very least we can do in return is to show them honor and respect when they come home.

According to the Greensboro Herald-Journal, middle school teacher Michael Lund of Anita White Carson Middle School in Greensboro, Georgia had that intention when he invited his old college roommate, Marine Sergeant Zach Richardson to speak to his middle school students about his experiences in Iraq.

The children in Mr. Lund's class had been pen pals with Sergeant Richardson and several of his fellow Marines in Iraq, so everyone was excited about finally getting to meet in person.

Imagine the surprise when he and Mr. Lund were intercepted outside the classroom by School Principal Ulrica Corbett. She demanded Mr. Lund escort Sgt. Richardson off school grounds immediately. Principal Corbett later told the media that Mr. Lund did not have approval for a guest speaker to come on campus.

Mr. Lund produced documentation to prove that he had indeed filed the necessary paperwork well in advance, and that Principal Corbett refused to act on it.

Regardless of the reason, this treatment of one of our heroes returning from Iraq is unacceptable and inexcusable.

Under no circumstances should Sergeant Richardson have been denied the opportunity

to speak to the students with whom he had been corresponding.

But just as damaging as the disrespect shown to Sergeant Richardson was the impact of this disrespect on the 6th grade students who were waiting to welcome this veteran.

They witnessed their Principal kick a Marine just back from the front off school property, giving our children a real-life lesson in disrespecting our military.

We have a lesson to teach at Anna White Carson Middle School—and across this country. That lesson should be that disrespect for America's service men and women by public officials will simply not be tolerated by the people of this country.

But before we scream too loudly about the speck in the eye of Greene County public schools, we need to take a look at the log in the eye of this Congress.

Senator DICK DURBIN of Illinois stood on the floor of our Senate and compared our military prisons to those of Nazi Germany.

Members of this Congress have whined about whether a book was mistreated at Guantanamo, while the comrades of those Guantanamo prisoners cut the heads off innocent, unarmed, civilian prisoners in their custody.

Any reasonable person can see that comments such as these plant seeds of disdain against America, here and abroad.

Are these comments and actions against our military forces now actually encouraging new attacks by our enemies in London and Baghdad?

Mr. Speaker, we cannot win this war if we continue to allow a handful of public officials to undermine our efforts with irresponsible comments and actions without paying a price—here and all across our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately today, July 18, 2005, I was delayed at O'Hare Airport due to severe thunderstorms in between Chicago and Washington, DC. I was stuck on the runway for hours and unfortunately I was unable to arrive in Washington before the votes occurred on H. Res. 328 (Rollcall No. 380), H. Con. Res. 175 (Rollcall No. 381), and H. Res. 364 (Rollcall No. 382). Had I been here to cast my votes, I would have voted "aye" on these three bills and wish the RECORD to reflect as such.

H. Res. 328 recognizes the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980, starting a chain of events that helped destroy the communist rule of Poland and the Soviet Union. The courage and strength of those workers showed the world that democracy can, will and must be allowed to flourish. The freedoms these workers strived for and vision that helped create the Solidarity Trade Union are freedoms that are fundamental to every human being and I rise today to honor these workers and the courage that they showed. May their example show other oppressed citizens throughout the world that there is hope and freedom.

H. Con. Res. 175 expresses the sense that Congress recognizes and honors African de-

scendants in the Americas for their contributions to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of the countries in the Americas, particularly in Latin American and Caribbean societies. It recognizes that as a result of their skin color and ancestry, African descendants in the Americas have wrongfully experienced economic, social, and political injustices. For far too long these injustices have continued and this bill is a great show of Congress that we will no longer stand for it and we must continue to promote ways to destroy barriers and racial injustices that divide our citizens and the citizens of Latin America and the Caribbean. I rise in strong support of this resolution.

H. Res. 364 commends the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India. With Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Washington this week to meet with the President and address us in a joint session of Congress, I can think of nothing better than to recognize the relations our two countries have recently been fostering. I would like to take this time to welcome Prime Minister Singh and look forward to working with him to see that our relations with him and his country continue to progress.

Mr. Speaker, thank you again for allowing me to express my support for these three bills as I was unfortunately delayed on my way to Washington.

MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR VETERANS MEDICAL SERVICES

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my unwavering support for H.R. 3130, the fiscal year 2005 emergency supplemental for the Veterans Health Administration. We promised to provide medical care to our veterans long ago, and we can not fail them.

Every time I meet with veterans in my district, they ask me why it has become so hard to get quality care at our local Veterans Administration medical center. I know as well as they do that right now, there are more than 50,000 veterans waiting months for appointments at Veterans Administration medical centers around the country, and this problem is only getting worse as more injured soldiers return from Iraq and Afghanistan. Unfortunately, the President's budget for this year provided only \$106 million more than last year for veterans health care, well below the amount needed to maintain services without a major change in policy. Now, we are faced with a system in crisis, and we must act immediately to repair it.

On June 24th, the Bush Administration admitted that the Department of Veterans Affairs budget for healthcare would need an additional \$1 billion this year in order to continue operating without loss of services. In response, the President requested an additional \$975 million for veterans' health care, which Chairman BUYER and Ranking Member EVANS pledged to provide as quickly as possible. This bill, H.R. 3130, will provide that additional \$975 million and prevent a lapse in services.

I firmly believe all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill, as we must keep the promise we made to our veterans. I hope that this legislation will be sent to the President for his signature as soon as possible.

Even as I am proud to express my strong support of this bill, I remain concerned with the state of veterans' health care in our country. I am pleased that we will pass today a vital emergency supplemental for that system, but I am also extremely troubled that the Veterans Health Administration had this budget shortfall in the first place. The state of veterans health care funding is extremely disappointing, especially given the fact that this entire problem could have been prevented. Instead, it occurred because the Republican leadership has repeatedly denied efforts by Democrats to fund VA healthcare at an appropriate level, claiming that the budget for fiscal year 2005 was more than adequate to serve the rapidly increasing veterans population.

Over the past two years, Democrats in the House have repeatedly stood with America's veterans in the fight to increase funding for veterans' health care. Meanwhile, Republicans have chosen other priorities. Consequently, we do not know when these vital funds will reach this system which is already in crisis. We sought to add \$1.2 billion for veterans' health care on the \$82 billion Iraqi supplemental, which was denied. We tried to provide a \$2.5 billion increase over the President's budget for veterans' health care and Republicans voted no. As recently as June 24th, House Republicans voted to block consideration of amendments offered by Democrats to add the needed funds for VA health care. This obstruction is outrageous, unacceptable, and has led to the shortfall we face today.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the House Republican Leadership to stop their attempts at budget gimmickry and deliver the necessary \$1.5 billion to the VA immediately. Our veterans chose to answer the call of duty to their Nation without hesitation, dedicating themselves to the preservation of freedom, liberty and the security of others no matter the risk. On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a Nation, it must be our pledge that we leave no veteran behind. We must honor their service to our grateful Nation and provide our veterans with the benefits they deserve.

IN HONOR OF THE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL JERSEY HOSPICE PROGRAM

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey Hospice Program, who are celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year.

Founded in 1980, the VNACJ Hospice Program has provided compassionate, quality care to those who are reaching the closing chapter of their lives. The many doctors, nurses, social workers, pastoral counselors, and volunteers at the VNACJ work together as teams. These teams collaborate with the patient's own physician to decide proper courses